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DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

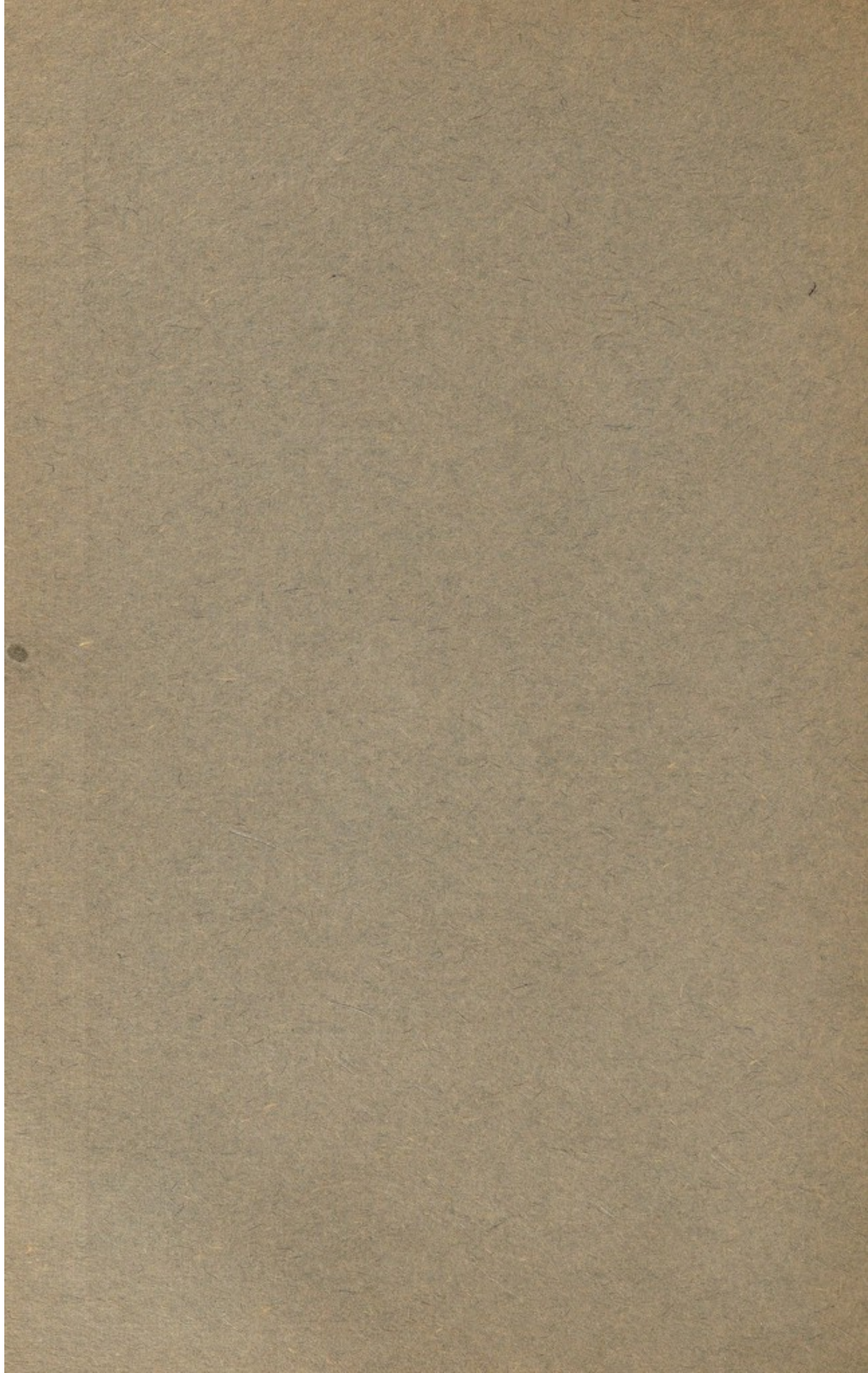
OF THE

Medical Officer
:: of Health ::

for the years 1943 and 1944

G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.
Medical Officer of Health for the
Devizes Rural Sanitary District

DEVIZES
C. H. Woodward, Printer
1945



DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEARS 1943 AND 1944

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the years 1943 and 1944.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. H. WAYLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

41, Long Street, Devizes.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

	1943	1944
Area in acres	63,515	63,515
Population as estimated by Registrar General ..	13,350	13,030
Number of inhabited houses	3,379	3,383
Rateable Value	£61,530	£63,987
Product of a penny rate	£271 : 14 : 5	£277 : 0 : 2

VITAL STATISTICS.

	1943			1944		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	92	97	189	128	125	253
Legitimate	86	91		110	115	
Illegitimate	6	6		18	10	
Still Births	4	2	6	3	1	4
Legitimate	4	2		3	1	
Illegitimate	—	—		—	—	
Live Birth Rate			13.4			19.42
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales ..			16.5			17.6
Number of Deaths from all causes 70 79			149	69	71	140
Crude Death Rate			10.41			10.74
Crude death rate for England and Wales			12.1			11.6
Death of Infants Under one year						
Legitimate	4	5		6	2	
Illegitimate	1	—		3	1	
	5	5	10	9	3	12
Infantile Death Rate			52.9			47.4
Infantile Death rate for England and Wales			49.0			46.0

The most noticeable figure in the above statistics is the rise in the Birth Rate for 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH RETURNED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL.

					1943		1944	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
6.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	..	..	3	1	—	—
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	1	1	4	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	..	—	—	—	1
9.	Influenza	..	..	..	2	4	—	—
10.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—	1	1
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis etc.	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
12.	Acute Inf. Encephalitis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Cervix, Oesophagus and Uterus	..	..	..	—	—	—	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	2	1	1	2
15.	Cancer of Breast	..	..	..	—	3	—	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites	..	..	..	8	9	6	6
17.	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	3	1	1
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	..	..	..	5	11	3	8
19.	Heart Disease	..	..	..	19	19	14	10
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	..	2	2	—	—
21.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	2	5	5	3
22.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	1	4	5	6
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	—	—	—	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea under two years of age	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
27.	Other diseases of Digestive System	..	..	..	2	4	3	1
28.	Nephritis	..	..	..	1	2	3	3
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal causes	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	..	..	..	2	1	1	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, birth injuries or infantile diseases	..	..	..	3	3	6	1
33.	Suicide	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	..	..	..	4	1	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	..	..	..	2	1	1	1
36.	All other causes	..	..	..	9	4	13	12

Satisfactory features are the low number of deaths from acute infectious diseases, two from measles only in 1944, and the absence of any maternal deaths.

The principal causes of death were :—

	1943	1944
(i) Cardiovascular Diseases		
(Nos. 18—20)	54	40
(ii) Cancer (Nos. 13—16)	24	22
(iii) Respiratory Diseases		
(Nos. 21—23)	12	20
Number of deaths from Tuberculosis	6	5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. G. H. H. Waylen, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer : Mr. S. C. Drabble, A.I.A.S., C.R.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A. Resigned 18th April, 1943. Mr. S. W. Saunders, C.R.S.I., from 19th April, 1943, (Part time in addition to his duties as Rent Collector and Housing Manager).

Ambulance Service.

Provided by Joint Ambulance Committee from Devizes Borough and Devizes Rural District Councils.

Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurses render some help to patients needing attention in their homes, but their midwifery duties markedly limit such help in scope and character.

Laboratory Facilities.

The "Greville" Laboratory of the Salisbury Infirmary utilised for all purposes.

Clinic and Treatment Centre.

- (1) Devizes Orthopaedic Clinic: Surgeon Mr. J. Bastow, F.R.C.S. Weekly at Scout Hall. More serious cases seen at Devizes and District Hospital.
- (2) Tuberculosis Clinic: Seen by County Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Harper. Weekly at Devizes and District Hospital.
- (3) In 1943 a weekly V.D. Clinic for females started at Devizes and District Hospital. Specialist: Dr. Jean Murray.

The Wilts County Council provides for an Eye Clinic under Dr. Joan Hickson bi-weekly and an Infant Welfare Centre; both held in Devizes Borough.

HOSPITALS.

(i) Devizes and District Hospital.

The Devizes and District Hospital has had to meet both the civil needs of the area and those of the Military, and auxiliary establishments hereabouts, as an E.M.S. Class 1A Hospital with 100 beds.

Further additions to the Consulting Staff have been made. In 1943 Consulting Gynaecologist Dr. Mitchell, F.R.C.S., who was succeeded after his untimely death, by Mr. Wilfred Shaw, F.R.C.S., (late of St. Bartholomews Hospital, E.C.).

Consulting General Surgeon: Mr. C. Kindersley, F.R.C.S.
Consulting Physician: Dr. Philip McKeag, M.R.C.P.
Ophthalmic Surgeon: Mr. Colley, M.R.C.S.

These consultants, as well as Mr. J. Bastow, F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon, and Mr. E. Watson Williams, F.R.C.S., E.N. & T., Surgeon all hold regular clinics at the hospital.

A table showing the increased work thrown on the hospital in the war years, and its commendable and successful efforts to cope with same, is, now that such information may be released, incorporated below in this report:—

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Total number of available beds	46	46	78	92	101	101	101
Average daily number occupied throughout year							
Civilians	25.1	25.4	26.4	36.2	41.7	45.4	38.2
E.M.S.	—	1.2	30.4	31.8	31.7	22.2	29.2
Total	25.1	26.6	56.8	68.0	73.4	67.6	67.4
Total number of Patients admitted	517	576	1051	1139	1303	1398	1346

Analysis of Inpatients Admitted—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Civilians	517	543	605	719	927	1059	899
<i>E.M.S.</i>							
Civilian War Casualties	—	—	3	2	2	—	3
Navy	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Army	—	18	381	315	289	194	265
R.A.F.	—	—	10	5	7	12	13
Service Entitled Families	—	1	11	33	28	26	10
Dominion and Allied							
Services	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Merchant Navy ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Refugees	—	—	—	—	3	1	5
Evacuees (Unaccompan-							
ied Children) ..	—	12	41	16	15	8	13
Evacuees (Other) ..	—	2	—	49	17	23	34
Womens Land Army ..	—	—	—	—	9	10	13
Transferred War Workers	—	—	—	—	3	27	13
Industrial War Workers							
(Fracture Cases) ..	—	—	—	—	3	7	18
Prisoners of War ..	—	—	—	—	—	25	53
Civil Nursing Reserve							
Trainees	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total <i>E.M.S.</i>	—	33	446	420	376	339	447
Grand Total	517	576	1051	1139	1303	1398	1346

Out-patients attendances

(Including X-Ray and Physiotherapy)

.. .. .	1911	3115	3506	6677	10395	14487	14625
Civilians	1911	2985	2617	5561	8467	12714	12674
<i>E.M.S.</i> (all classes) ..	—	130	889	1116	1928	1773	1951

(ii) Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital.

Throughout 1943 and 1944 the largest ward was still occupied by Tuberculosis Patients under arrangements with the Wilts County Council who were fortunate in keeping such undisturbed possession.

A table below shows the number and character of admissions on the Fever side.

	1943	1944
Scarlet Fever	105	80
Diphtheria	2	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	9
Meningitis in other forms	1	1
Erysipelas	2	1
Mumps	2	6
Rubella	2	1
Encephalitis	1	—
Varicella	—	9
Measles	6	12
Scabies	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	3
Pemphigus	1	1
Food Poisoning	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1
Observation	21	10

Notifiable Diseases During Years 1943 and 1944.

	1943	1944
Scarlet Fever	30	49
Whooping Cough	51	23
Measles	30	4
Acute P. Pneumonia	16	10
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	2
Erysipelas	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	4
Diphtheria	—	—
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—

Tuberculosis Ward.

	1943	1944
Admissions	51	34
Discharges	43	26
Deaths	7	7

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Eight parishes are connected wholly to the Council's water supply scheme and several properties in four other parishes are connected out of a total of twenty four. Those lying south of the Marlborough Downs and East of Market Lavington being as yet without a piped supply.

All the water is derived from three boreholes in the Greensand at Great Cheverell.

The total quantities supplied for all purposes were as follows:—

1943 ..	31,933,000 gallons
1944 ..	33,472,000 gallons

Twenty-five per cent of the total number of houses in the area have a piped supply and four per cent obtain water from standpipes.

An improvised chlorination apparatus has been installed whereby the chlorine is introduced by a drip feed of "Chloros" solution into the raw water as it enters the sand trap. Obviously this can neither give an accurate dosage nor record what has been done day by day. The results, however, of analyses taken appear to show it to be effective.

In both 1943 and 1944 four samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

In 1943 and 1944 the rainfall was well below the average. The effect of this became evident (see Sanitary Inspector's Report) in 1943, and in March, 1944 Major A. H. S. Waters, M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E., M.I.S.E., M.I.W.E., was called in to consider the feasibility of obtaining a supplementary supply from a source at either Broadwell or Shovel Wood. In June 1944 Professor Fearnside of Sheffield University was also called in to advise on the geological conditions of the District.

Previous gaugings at Broadwell during 1943 showed the supply there had dropped heavily, from October onwards, only 5,000 gallons per hour being obtained on 4th December, 1943. During 1944 gaugings taken monthly—April to November—at Shovel Wood showed a constant yield of almost 10,000 gallons per hour.

Apart from the fact that the existing wells at Great Cheverell had failed to stand up to the current demand during a drought period, two factors call for the provision of a much more copious supply. They are firstly the increasing use of piped water in the dairying industry (steps taken by the Board of Agri-

culture to improve the quality of the milk supply inevitably bring this about). Secondly, if the cottages built recently for the agricultural worker in your district are a portent, houses built after the war will be designed where possible for a water carriage system, at any rate, where grouped. Older dwellings when reconditioned will need similar amenities. Sewage disposal schemes of varying size will become necessary, now here, now there.

By the end of 1944 no final report was to hand from the Council's advisers; no decision had, therefore, been taken nor action started.

Devizes Borough Council, suffering as you were from the drought periods, and further impelled by their commitments to the Military, have already taken steps to increase their supply of water. They will be in a position to render substantial assistance to you. Their reservoir is so sited as to permit of easy supply to the villages lying under the escarpment of the downs. A linking up of their mains with yours would be a mutual safeguard against breakdown or the untoward demands of fires.

The obstacles to joint action are purely administrative and financial. Were such overcome, the area as a whole would surely be best served by the two undertakings working together to their common advantage.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Complaints as to a nuisance arising from the Kennet and Avon Canal in 1944 led to investigation into its state between the Camp areas and the Borough.

Samples showed that the water was increasingly polluted in passage from Ley Woods to the London Road Bridge. Sewage had reached the canal at some past date from the camps owing to damage to a sewer, remedied at time of inspection.

No evidence was obtained that sewage from the A.T.S. Quarters at Anzac Camp reached the canal, nor was any fouling by effluent from the Flax Factory discovered.

The chief cause of nuisance lay in the fact that the waterway was practically static, the recent low rainfalls had provided insufficient water to permit of the regular opening of the locks and intermittent flushing through of the canal in this area.

HOUSING.

Apart from the eight special houses for agricultural workers, none have been built during the two years under review. Neither has any extensive reconditioning been done. Stop-gap repairs only could be carried out. No attempt was made to re-commence the systematic survey of housing conditions under way when the war started. This could not be thought of with the Sanitary Inspectors duties being shouldered by Mr. Saunders on an almost voluntary basis in addition to his own work.

P.S.—At the time of writing this survey has been started afresh and making steady progress.

Will young women of good type, when released from the Forces and Munition Industry, wishful to marry and start a home on the land, stomach life in homes where facilities for domestic and personal cleanliness are those of the eighteenth century?

The provision of new homes with up-to-date sanitary and domestic convenience, and the installation of similar equipment where suitable in existing dwellings appear to me to be inescapable steps towards adequate service of the land in the years ahead.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR PERIOD
FROM 1st APRIL, 1943 to 31st DECEMBER, 1943.**

Housing.

During the year eight new dwelling houses erected in the District by the local authority for agricultural labourers.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops

Factory Inspections	.. .. .	27
Workshop Inspections	.. .. .	45

Milk and Dairies Order.

Total number of persons registered as Cowkeepers, Dairymen or Wholesale Purveyors of milk	..	287
Inspections	.. .. .	305
Cowsheds improved	.. .. .	28
Water supply improved	.. .. .	11
Number of retail purveyors of milk	.. .. .	58

Meat and Food Inspections.

Fresh meat condemned in lbs.	.. .. .	454
Canned and other foods condemned in lbs.	.. .. .	827

Summary of other Work Carried out in Sanitary Department.

Total number of inspections, excluding cowsheds	527
Informal notices served	.. .. . 15
Informal notices complied with	.. .. . 12
W.C's constructed for new property	.. .. . 6
E.C's constructed for new property	.. .. . 2
E.C's converted to W.C's	.. .. . 16
Privies converted to E.C's	.. .. . 4
New house drains laid	.. .. . 29
House drains cleansed and repaired	.. .. . 17
Wells cleaned and repaired	.. .. . 17
Water Supplies improved	.. .. . 16
Contaminated water supplies replaced by mains supply	33
Dwelling houses cleansed	.. .. . 6
Dwelling houses repaired and improved	.. .. . 22
Dwelling houses condemned unfit	.. .. . 1
Disinfestation " Scabies "	.. .. . 11
Foul ditches cleansed	.. .. . 29
Heaps of refuse removed	.. .. . 12
Offensive trades, nuisance abated	.. .. . 2
Bakehouses limewashed	.. .. . 19
Bakehouses, main water supply laid on	.. .. . 3

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops.

Factory Inspections	.. .. .	37
Workshop Inspections	.. .. .	38

Milk and Dairies Order.

Total number of persons registered as Cowkeepers, Dairymen or wholesale Purveyors of Milk	.. .. .	287
Inspections during the year	.. .. .	410
Cowsheds improved	.. .. .	13
Water supply improved	.. .. .	5
Number of retail Purveyors of Milk	.. .. .	58

Meat and Food Inspections.

Fresh meat condemned in lbs.	.. .. .	741
Canned and other foods condemned in lbs.	.. .. .	123

Summary of other work carried out in Sanitary Department.

Total number of inspections, excluding cowsheds	732
Informal notices served	12
Informal notices complied with	12
E.C's converted to W.C's	12
Privies converted to E.C's	2
New house drains laid	28
House drains cleansed and repaired	55
Wells cleaned and repaired	22
Contaminated water supplies replaced by mains supply	40
Dwelling houses cleansed	4
Dwelling houses repaired and improved	36
Dwelling houses rendered fit for habitation	5
Overcrowding inspections	2
Overcrowding abated	2
Disinfestation " Scabies "	24
Foul ditches cleansed	25
Offensive accumulation removed	19
Bakehouses limewashed	21
Bakehouses, main water supply laid on	2

During the early summer of 1943 the position of the Great Cheverell Water Supply became serious, as with a daily consumption round about 100,000 gallons and a maximum yield from the large borehole of 4,500 gallons per hour, it was necessary, in order to maintain the supply, to resort to continuous pumping until the drop in consumption during the winter months when it was possible to cease pumping occasionally for two or three hours.

Owing to the shortage of rain during the winter of 1943 the yield from the borehole failed to increase, so that early in 1944 an acute water shortage arose, the maximum yield from the large borehole dropping to 4,000 gallons per hour. Continuous pumping again became necessary ; all new applications for a water supply were refused, and it became necessary to curtail the supply by turning off all supply at night. This had to be continued up to the end of the year, and it was hoped that it would shortly be possible to ease the position by arranging to take a supply from the Devizes Corporation Waterworks.

